

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: AF/W:MGWYGANT:BF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 133077

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 NOT AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED

TAGS: PFOR, CD, US

SUBJECT: TOMBALBAYE'S REQUEST FOR GREATER US SUPPORT

REF: NDJAMENA 1371 AND 1372

1. FYI: DEPARTMENT HAS CAREFULLY CONSIDERED TOMBALBAYE PROPOSAL AND ASSESSED VARIOUS OPTIONS SUGGESTED BY HIS APPROACH. ON BALANCE WE DO NOT FEEL US INTERESTS IN CHAD WARRANT GREATER AID COMMITMENT BEYOND ALREADY SIGNIFICANT LEVEL BILATERAL PROGRAMS. NOR DO WE SEE ADVANTAGES IN SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP EVIDENTLY ENVISAGED BY TOMBALBAYE. YOU HAVE NOTED SIMILAR TOMBALBAYE APPROACH TO PRESIDENT NIXON IN 1972, AND RECORDS HERE REVEAL EARLIER INSTANCES WHEN CHADIAN PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOR SPECIAL US TIE. FACTORS UNDERLYING DECISION FOR PREVIOUS TURNDOWNS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN INTERVENING PERIOD. END FYI.

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2. CHECK WITH CONOCO HOME OFFICE REVEALED INTEREST IN CONTINUED OIL EXPLORATION, BUT NO PREDICTIONS ABOUT LIKELY DISCOVERY SIGNIFICANT DEPOSITS. CONOCO UNFORTHCOMING REGARDING URANIUM.

3. YOU MAY INFORM TOMBALBAYE PRESIDENT NIXON APPRECIATES CHAD'S CONFIDENCE IN THE U.S. AS REFLECTED IN HIS MESSAGE CONCERNING A SPECIAL U.S. GUIDING ROLE IN ASSISTING COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT. UNFORTUNATELY, GIVEN CURRENT AND ANTICIPATED RESTRAINTS ON U.S. ASSISTANCE RESOURCES, U.S. IS NOT IN POSITION FOR MAJOR EXPANSION OUR CHADIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. NONETHELESS, USG IS PARTICULARLY COGNIZANT SEVERE DROUGHT SITUATION AND WILL CONTINUE PROVIDE MAXIMUM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE OUR NOT UNLIMITED RESOURCES WILL ALLOW. AID IS DEVELOPING PROGRAMS IN SAHEL WHICH WILL NOT ONLY HELP ALLEVIATE DROUGHT-RELATED PROGRAMS, BUT WILL HAVE LONG TERM ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR SAHELIAN STATES. PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IS ANOTHER CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF U.S. CONCERN FOR CHADIAN DEVELOPMENT. YOU MAY REASSURE TOMBALBAYE WE ARE ALWAYS PREPARED TO EXAMINE SPECIFIC CHADIAN ASSISTANCE REQUESTS, WHICH WILL BE JUDGED ON THEIR MERITS. FINALLY, WE CONTINUE FIRMLY IN OUR DESIRE FOR CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CHAD.

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